



# **U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary**

## **F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman**

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### ***News Advisory***

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## **Sensenbrenner Statement on Homeland Security Department Secretary Chertoff's Announcement He Will Use REAL ID Law's Authority to Complete San Diego Border Fence**

***Sensenbrenner: "This Action Will Improve the  
Security of the American Public."***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff today announced he will exercise his authority under the REAL ID Act to waive certain legal requirements to complete the 14-mile border fence near San Diego. House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.), the author of the REAL ID Act, issued the following statement today:

"Nine years ago, Congress stated unequivocally that it wanted this border fence constructed to restore order and improve an area marked by a stampede of illegal entries, criminal activity, and environmental destruction. While Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) deserves much credit for improving the security in this area since then, completion of this congressionally-mandated border fence continues to be stymied by litigation and obstructionism. This intolerable situation forced Congress earlier this year to pass the REAL ID Act, which gave Secretary Chertoff the authority he announced today he will be exercising.

"I commend Secretary Chertoff for this action because it will improve the security of the American public, especially those in the San Diego area, allow Customs and Border Patrol to use their resources in a more effective manner, and clean up the environmental destruction that has resulted from the illegal border crossings.

"I visited this area in March and saw first-hand an area littered with trash and harmed

ecologically from illegal border crossings. While I was inspecting the aptly-named Smugglers' Gulch border area, individuals literally sat on the border fence, admitting publicly they were waiting for darkness before illegally entering the U.S. It was obvious that any terrorist could also sit on the fence and await the fall of night to enter California, at a point less than six miles from the largest U.S. Naval installation on the West Coast. An incomplete fence has made the CBP's mission even more difficult, but more importantly, has not provided the American public with the security and protection it deserves."

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